

Budgeting Tips

- A budget outlines an individual's or family's financial goals and should be reviewed on a yearly basis, be realistic and sustainable.

Example Monthly Budget:

Income: Husband \$5,500 (before tax)
Wife \$3,000 (before tax)

Total Income: \$8,500

Expenses: Mortgage \$2,325
Car \$250
Insurance \$225
Utilities \$240
Food/Entertainment \$300
Gas \$150

Total Expenses: \$3,490

- Ideally, total expenses should not exceed more than 41% of your total pre-tax income.
- Free online budget worksheet and resources:
 - www.californiafinancialliteracy.org
 - www.freehomeownershiphelp.org

TRY THIS!

DO YOU HAVE A HANDLE ON YOUR MONTHLY BUDGET?

Expenses can total more than you estimate. For example, food and entertainment costs are often underestimated. Keep all of your food and entertainment receipts in a designated envelope. Mark on the envelope how much you GUESS you spend per month on this category. Collect all food/entertainment receipts for 30 days, keeping them in the labeled envelope. After 30 days have passed, tally up the receipts and see where you stand. You may be surprised to see the results!